That was all I said. I do not think I spoke for more than a few minutes. I went on to the next meeting and repeated the same thing there, and so right on through the coal-fields. That night I took the train back to London in time to attend the Cabinet the next afternoon. They said to me: 'What has happened? All the men are at work. How did you settle it?' I said, 'Well, it is news to me that the men are at work.' That great song helped us to win through at the very moment when a paralysing blow was being struck at us—when we were being told by our Navy that they only had reserves of coal for a week, and if this strike went on for another week, we should be paralysed and finished. It was then that 'Land of My Fathers' saved us."

Anxious moments such as this strike outbreak were all too frequent in our experience during the War, and the Ministry of National Service had to mingle the utmost tact with its firmness in order to carry through its essential task. Strikes and the Labour unrest which characterised 1917 aggravated our difficulties with man-power. But had there been no labour troubles, the number of fit men available for indispensable duties was not equal to every need. It was certainly not commen-surate with the growing demand. The slaughter of Passchendaele added to these difficulties.

As I shall
Military point out when I come to relate
the story
waste of of that bloody battle, or series of
battles,
man-power the French had deliberately
chosen a
In 1917 fighting policy which would save
their men
for the final struggle of 1918 when
America would
be ready to join in. Our Generals had
deliberately